

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A portable computer system comprising:  
a processor coupled to a bus;  
a light sensor coupled to said bus and for providing an ambient light information signal to said processor;  
a lighted display device coupled to said bus and for providing a visual display;  
a display controller coupled to said bus and for controlling said visual display;  
a data storage device coupled to said bus and comprising preconfigured dynamically adjustable brightness range setting data for implementing a plurality of different simultaneously stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum value; and  
wherein said processor automatically selects a stored range of said plurality of stored ranges based on said ambient light information signal from said light sensor for use in dynamic brightness control.

Claim 2. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 1 further comprising an adjustment display for enabling the user to adjust a brightness setting within said selected range for said display device.

Claim 3. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 1 wherein said lighted display device is transmissive.

Claim 4. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 1 wherein said lighted display device is emissive.

Claim 5. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 1 wherein said lighted display device is reflective.

Claim 6. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 1 wherein said lighted display device is transflective.

Claim 7. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 2 wherein said adjustment display comprises a brightness bar with user adjustable slider.

Claim 8. (previously presented): The portable computer system of Claim 7 wherein said adjustment display comprises a plurality of selectable brightness levels.

Claim 9. (previously presented): The portable computer system of Claim 8 wherein the position of said user adjustable slider remains unchanged in response to an automatic change in brightness range between a first selected range and a second selected range and wherein further, said position of said slider in said first selected range corresponds to a different brightness value compared to a brightness value corresponding to said same position of said slider in said second selected range.

Claim 10.(original): The portable computer system of Claim 9 wherein said display controller adjusts brightness of said display device according to said range and brightness setting.

Claim 11. (previously presented): The portable computer system of Claim 10 further comprising a time period for implementing any brightness changes to said display device.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The portable computer system of Claim 11 wherein a setting for said time period is fixed.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A portable electronic device comprising:  
a processor coupled to a bus;  
a light sensor coupled to said bus and for providing ambient light information signal to said processor;  
a lighted display device coupled to said bus and for providing a visual display;  
a display controller and for controlling said visual display;  
a data storage device coupled to said bus and comprising a plurality of simultaneously stored preconfigured dynamically adjustable brightness ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum value; and  
wherein said processor selects a brightness range of said stored brightness ranges based on preset range configuration data and said ambient light information signal from said light sensor for use in dynamic brightness control.

Claim 14. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 13 further comprising an adjustment display for enabling the user to adjust brightness of said display device within said range setting.

Claim 15. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 13 wherein said lighted display device is transmissive.

Claim 16. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 13 wherein said lighted display device is emissive.

Claim 17. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 13 wherein said lighted display device is reflective.

Claim 18. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 13 wherein said lighted display device is transfective.

Claim 19. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 14 wherein said adjustment display is a graphical user interface comprising a brightness bar and a user adjustable slider.

Claim 20. (previously presented): The portable electronic device of Claim 19 wherein said adjustment display is a graphical user interface comprising a plurality of user selectable brightness levels.

Claim 21. (previously presented): The portable electronic device of Claim 20 wherein, the position of said user adjustable slider remains unchanged in response to an automatic change in brightness range between a first selected range and a second selected range and wherein further, said position of said slider in said first selected range corresponds to a different brightness value compared to a brightness value corresponding to said same position of said slider in said second selected range.

Claim 22. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 21 wherein said display controller implements adjustment to brightness of said display device according to said selected brightness range and brightness setting.

Claim 23. (previously presented): The portable electronic device of Claim 22 further comprising a time-delay for implementing any adjustment to brightness of said display device.

Claim 24. (original): The portable electronic device of Claim 23 wherein said time delay is fixed.

Claim 25. (currently amended): In a portable electronic device, a method of responding to a change in ambient light conditions comprising:

a) detecting said change in ambient light conditions and generating a signal in response thereto;

b) in response to said signal, a processor of said portable electronic device selecting a brightness range from a plurality of simultaneously stored brightness ranges based on preconfigured range information for use in dynamic brightness control; and

c) implementing said brightness range to alter the brightness of a display device of said portable electronic device, wherein each stored brightness range of said plurality of stored brightness ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum value.

Claim 26. (original): A method as described in Claim 25 further comprising:

d) allowing a user to adjust a brightness setting within said selected brightness range; and

e) altering said brightness of said display device based on said brightness setting.

Claim 27. (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 26 wherein said d) is implemented using a user-adjustable slider.

Claim 28. (original): A method as described in Claim 25 wherein c) comprises employing a time delay between any brightness transition of said display device.

Claim 29. (original): A method as described in Claim 25 wherein a) is performed by a light sensor of said portable electronic device.

Claim 30. (previously presented): The portable computer system of Claim 11 wherein a setting for said time period is user-configurable.

Claim 31. (previously presented): The portable electronic device of Claim 23 wherein said time delay is user-configurable.

Claim 32. (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 27, wherein the position of said user-adjustable slider remains unchanged in response to an automatic change in brightness range between a first selected range and a second selected range and wherein further, said position of said slider in said first selected range corresponds to a different brightness value compared to a brightness value corresponding to said same position of said slider in said second selected range.